

"6th. The sulphate mixed with cerate causes scarcely any pain or inflammation.

"7th. This medicine, valuable for administering the quina to certain patients in simple intermittents, may become a great resource in certain cases of dangerous and obstinate fevers."—*Lond Med. and Phys. Journ. November, 1827.*

36. *Sulphate of Quinine.*—M. BLAND, Physician to the Hospital of Beaucaire, observed in an epidemic intermittent fever which prevailed in the summer of 1825, that the sulphate of quinine when given to the extent of twenty-four grains a day, produced on the second or third day, in many individuals, a considerable degree of deafness. He observed this most frequently in tertians in individuals who were slender and of a nervous temperament. This symptom was attended with head-ache, it disappeared spontaneously on the eighth or twelfth day.—*Journal des Progrès, Vol. V.*

### PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

37. *Cases of Inflammation of the Tongue.*—In the Periscope of our last number, we gave two cases of this rare and alarming disease; the following cases will be considered a useful addition to our knowledge of the affection, and are especially interesting as they yielded to milder treatment than was employed in those previously noticed. *Case I.*—"A stout man, aged 68 years, by trade a mason, was attacked with pain in the throat, redness of the fauces, and swelling of the tonsils, but without much fever. These symptoms were considerably diminished by leeches applied to the angles of the jaws, emollient gargles, and a mustard pediluvium. But in consequence of exposure to cold he was soon afterwards seized during the night with a tormenting sense of tightness at the root of the tongue, difficulty in speaking and swallowing, and ere long with swelling in the tongue and impending suffocation. When his physician saw him in the morning he could not speak, the pulse was very quick and feeble, the countenance pale and anxious, and the tongue filled the whole cavity of the mouth. On account of the firmness with which the tongue was pressed against the roof of the mouth, and the patient's inability to separate the jaws to half the usual distance, it was found impossible to make on its upper surface more than two short incisions, from which very little blood flowed. An incision was therefore made with the lancet into each sublingual vein; and when the blood ceased to flow, fresh incisions were made, and the discharge promoted by injecting warm water into the mouth. In the course of two hours the swelling was so much diminished that the man was able to rinse the mouth with warm milk, after which a blister was applied to the neck, and a purgative enema administered. A rapid amendment then took place, so that before the close of the day he could speak intelligibly; and his recovery went on steadily. *Case II.*—Another case was of a less acute form than the former. It had existed eight days before it came under treatment. The patient had little pain or fever, but swallowed with great difficulty, and could breathe only in the upright posture. The case was cured by blisters, gargles, and the mustard pediluvium.—*Horn's Archiv. für Medizinische Erfahrung.*

38. *Employment of Iodine in the Treatment of Cynanche Parotidæa.* By Dr. NEUMANN.—"Dr. Neumann, of Neustadt in Silesia, has employed the hydriodate of potass with great success as an external application in cynanche parotidæa, which prevailed epidemically in Neustadt in June, 1823. Among the poorer orders who were treated in the ordinary way, the disease was very tedious, and generally ended in suppuration. Among the better ranks, the treatment consisted in the exhibition of an emetic, and the application over the tumour of a plaster composed of eight parts of mercurial ointment and one part

of the hydriodate of potass; and the ordinary effect was a radical cure within three or four days. Dr. Neumann adds, that he never observed in the cases so treated any metastasis to other organs; and he is disposed to impute this to the formation of an erythematic eruption, which always appeared on the first or second day, and remained from eight to twelve days.—The author has annexed a very instructive case illustrating the deleterious effects of this drug when given in too great quantity. It was given to cure enlargement of the cervical glands, which it accomplished very effectually; but the patient was at the same time attacked with violent palpitation in the chest and abdomen, which was relieved only by the horizontal posture, then with great weakness, and tendency to faint, and subsequently with emaciation and general dropsy. The palpitation was so violent and constant as at first to appear connected with organic derangement; but the relief obtained from the horizontal posture, the absence of cough and dyspnoea before the dropsy commenced, and the regularity of the pulse, led Dr. Neumann to conceive that the disorder of the heart was merely functional. Accordingly, although the patient had been ill for a twelvemonth, the irregularity of the heart's action was soon subdued by the employment of digitalis and cherry-laurel-water; and the tendency to faint and anxiety at the same time disappeared. The dropsy, however, continued much longer; but at length it slowly receded under the use of the *Arnica* combined with soap."—*Rust's Magazin für die Gesamte Heilkunde*, 1826.

39. *Case of Cancer of the Breast cured by Antiphlogistic Treatment.* By P. GASSAUD.—"Madame Dillon, residing at Toulouse, aged 49, of a sanguineo-nervous temperament, the mother of several children, had enjoyed good health up to her forty-seventh year. She then began to be the subject of retarded menstruation, and to be much affected with pains in the abdomen. In pursuance of the advice of her physicians, she took several purgative draughts, which procured her some relief, without, however, restoring her health, which still continued in a tottering state. In the month of October, 1821, after having given herself a slight blow on the left breast, she perceived a tumour there, about the size of a nut. At first this excited but little attention; but as it gradually increased, and in time began to be painful, she sought the opinion of a surgeon, who recommended a resolving plaster to be applied to the part, and made her take daily a *white powder*.

"During a whole year the patient derived no benefit; on the contrary, the pains increased; sleep entirely left her, the tumour made rapid progress, and at length an abscess was formed towards the depending part.

"Being at this epoch physician to the medical charity of the district in which this poor woman resided, I saw her, for the first time, on the 6th October, 1822, and found her in the following state: rather unusually thin; her face pale; contracted, and expressive of suffering; skin hot, and unusually so towards evening; hard and frequent pulse; habitual and obstinate constipation; the left breast the seat of three unequal and agglomerated tumours, the largest resembling a hen's egg, which was at the same time in a state of ulceration. The skin in the neighbourhood of the local affection was corrugated, and the folds were of a brownish hue; the edges of the ulceration hard, unequal, swollen and highly sensible; the patient declaring that the sensation was that of red hot coals. The bottom of the sore was full of fleshy, dull white granulations, and discharged a fetid, acrid, serous, and bloody fluid. Digestion was difficult; sleep a stranger; nutrition imperfect; and the mind greatly depressed.

"My first attempt was to inspire my interesting patient with confidence, from the hope afforded of relief by means of the new doctrine, and the cures that had already been effected, in several similar cases, at Paris. She promised implicitly to follow my advice.

"The first day, I dismissed the nutritive food and generous wine, which she had been using in order to keep up her strength, confining her to a milk and vegetable diet, and restricting her, in point of drink, to mucilaginous and sim-

ply sweetened water. Thirty leeches were applied in the evening, as near the seat of the evil as was practicable; upon their removal, not only their punctures, but the whole ulcerated surface was covered with a linseed-meal poultice, moistened with a decoction of leaves of nightshade and poppy-heads.

"On the morrow there was a little amendment, although she felt herself very weak: the leeches had bled well, and I ordered this depletion to be repeated three times in the course of twenty-four hours. The patient had some repose, and the sore put on a better aspect. In four days more the leeches were repeated, to the amount of twenty, but less blood was obtained; and this time the patient was not so much weakened, while the pain was lessened.

"By the 12th, the stomach, which had been over-excited by the wine and previous regimen, began to be in a better state; the tongue had nearly regained its natural aspect, being more moist and less red. Hope likewise seemed to be playing a useful part; the countenance began to brighten, the spirits mounted, and she declared that she had enjoyed two hours tranquil sleep during the preceding night—a thing to which she had been a stranger during six months. *Contin. regimen et cataplasmata.*

"18th. The ulcer presents an entirely new aspect; its edges are less hard and more united; the veins surrounding the body of the mamma are diminished; the bottom of the sore has assumed a healthier colour; the discharge is less bloody and of better consistence; *fifteen leeches bled well*, and, according to the patient's account, entirely removed the pain.

"24th. The ulcer contracts; the edges are subsiding, and present a vermilion hue: I now commenced the application all round of strips of fine linen, smeared with recently made *opiated cerate*; while, at the same time, the whole tumour was covered with the application already mentioned.

"30th. A remarkable improvement; the glands in the neighbourhood of the ulceration, which were of unusual sensibility, have lost about a third of their bulk, and give little or no uneasiness to the patient. Twelve leeches were this day applied; but in other respects there was no alteration of treatment. The first days of November being cold, I advised Mad. Dillon to keep herself warm, and on no account to expose herself to damp. The digestive organs being in a favourable state, I judged it proper to try *revulsion*. Accordingly, two of the following pills were ordered every morning:—*R. Saponis ʒj.; aloës. hydrarg. submur. (calomel,) aa. ʒss.; syrapi rhamni, q. s. ad faciendum pil. no. lxij.*

"Every ten days a small number of leeches was applied, and after every application of this nature the state of the breast was manifestly improved. The appetite improved so much as to prompt the patient to solicit for indulgence in the article of diet, and she was allowed a small portion of fish.

"Towards the close of November the pain was entirely gone; respiration, which had been hitherto oppressed, became free; instead of a foul ulcer, the mamma exhibited a healthy sore, approaching rapidly to cicatrization; the neighbouring tumours subsided, and scarcely equalled a pea in point of size. The temper of the patient, from being morose and unsteady, became remarkably cheerful; her physiognomy indicated the entire removal of suffering; the nutrient and locomotive functions were executed with ease; and, in short, the general state of affairs was good.

"About the beginning of November, the purgative plan having excited some slight cholice, I suspended its operation *pro tempore*.

"12th. Fifteen leeches; and on the 13th the pills resumed, in smaller doses. During the month the wound was regularly dressed, and cataplasms were daily applied.

"January 1st, 1823. One entire and undisturbed night's rest; functions entirely natural; ulcer ready to heal up; mammary glands, at first so large, diminished to almost their natural state; *cataplasms discontinued; dressings with saturnine cerate; more animal food; wine and water.* The patient returns to her domestic occupations. At the end of the month the ulcer was entirely healed,

and from that time I look upon it that Mad. Dillon was the subject of a radical cure.

"From this period more than four years have elapsed, and nothing whatever has occurred to disturb my patient's health."—*Nouv. Bibl. Méd. June, 1827.*

40. *Phagedenic Ulceration of the Gums in Children.*—"We have received the following note from Mr. Bush, of Frome.

"In the Journal for June, Mr. Thomson has given a paper on a species of phagedenic ulceration of the mouth, called 'Gangrenous Excoriation, or Erosion,' in which he recommends, and perhaps with much propriety, the Balsam of Peru. The disease is well known to practitioners, especially those resident in crowded manufacturing towns, as attacking the children of the lower orders, and more particularly such as are deficiently supplied with nutritious food, and have not the advantages of well-ventilated rooms, regular personal ablution, and frequent changes of clean linen. I have seen this disease to supervene on typhus, scarlatina, rubeola and variola, and at all periods from one to ten years. It takes place in children of delicate constitutions, such as are of scrofulous diathesis. Having witnessed a great deal of difficulty in curing these cases by bark, wine, and the ordinary routine of practice, I was induced (some ten or fourteen years ago,) to give the carbon, and with the most happy results. Indeed, where the plan has been tried early, I do not remember an unsuccessful instance. The following is the formula I have commonly used; but, when the bowels have been too relaxed, I have formed the linctus with syrup. pap. alb.—℞. Carbonis ligni, mellis, aa. ʒj. M. sumatur cochleare minimum sæpe, vel quartâ quâque horâ. This serves as a local and constitutional remedy. I have used it very extensively in cases of ill-conditioned ulcers, accompanied by constitutional debility, both internally and as a local application, with marked advantage.

"It is worthy of observation, that animal and vegetable oils, sugar, gum, starch, and other substances found to contain great quantities of carbon, are those which by experience are found to recruit and restore most efficiently debilitated constitutions."—*Lond. Med. and Phys. Journ. October, 1827.*

41. *Treatment of Acute Rheumatism by Tight Bandaging.*—M. VELPEAU, some time ago published an account of his treatment of the several varieties of diffuse cellular inflammation by graduated pressure, applied by means of the roller bandage. Dr. Varlez surgeon in chief of the military hospital of Brussels, has treated acute rheumatism of the joints with great success, by the same application. He relates in the *Archives Générales de Médecine*, for June, 1827, several cases "in which the bandage was applied in the acutest form and stage of the disease, when the redness and swelling were great, the throbbing pain violent, and the general fever high, and in which the treatment was crowned with speedy and complete success. In almost every instance the application of the bandage is followed at first, and for two or three hours, with increase of the pain, so that the patient can with difficulty be persuaded to persevere; but soon afterwards the pain begins to abate, and the abatement then advances with rapidity. Dr. Varlez generally moistened the bandages with an emollient decoction, which, besides having the ordinary effect of emollients, were useful by increasing the pressure."

42. *Prussiate of Iron in Epilepsy.*—The Chevalier KIRKHOFF, of Antwerp, has employed for a long time with success, the prussiate of iron in the treatment of epilepsy, when it does not depend upon organic lesion. He administers the remedy, at the commencement, in very small doses, beginning with half a grain a day for an adult, and gradually augmenting it to three, four, five, or six grains, and often more. When the patient is of a sanguineous constitution, the use of this remedy is preceded by a large bleeding, and is accompanied by the application of some leeches to the temples, repeated from time to

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time. M. K. recommends also the following regimen; considerable exercise, but without inducing fatigue; to avoid exposure to vicissitudes of temperature, dampness, or great heat; to shun every thing that can produce strong impressions upon the nervous system, as venereal pleasures, strong emotions, as well agreeable as disagreeable. When the patient has a feeble constitution, he puts him upon a light, nutritive, and easily digestible diet, preferring animal food, as veal broth, poultry, milk, eggs, &c. He recommends the farinacea also as accessory articles of diet. Coffee, tea, liquors, finally every thing that can over-excite is forbidden. It is necessary that the patient should eat little at a time and often, in order to avoid producing an irritation of the stomach, which might react upon the brain, the principal seat of epilepsy. As it is necessary to pay the greatest attention to prevent all irritation of the brain, both direct and indirect, it is also necessary to keep the bowels open by enemata. But when the patient is very robust, and of a sanguineous constitution, M. K. prescribes a strict antiphlogistic diet and vegetable food.—*Journal des Progrès, Vol. IV.*

43. *Chloride of Soda in Tetters.*—M. LISFRANC has lately used, with success, in cases of obstinate tetters, a lotion composed of a solution of the chloride of soda. He first subdues the symptoms of inflammation and then uses the lotion.

44. *Muriate of Iron in Softening of the Stomach.*—"In the Heidelberg Klin. Annalen, Dr. DE POMMER has related some cases of supposed softening of the stomach in infants, a disease to which the attention of the profession has recently been called, (see the paper of Dr. Gairdner in the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions of Edinburgh, &c.*) in which he administered the muriate of iron with apparent advantage. We say supposed cases, because the actual condition of the stomach in cases terminating favourably must remain matter of conjecture, and all that we can venture to affirm is, that the symptoms of the children who survived were very similar to those in the children who perished, and in whom the coats of the stomach were found softened. In the cases which did well under the muriate of iron, there was constant vomiting, with frequent, loose, fetid stools; moaning, and anxiety of countenance; but no tension of the abdomen, or tenderness on pressure. The following is the prescription recommended:—*R. Rad. Alth. ʒij.; Coq. c. aq. fontan. q. s.; Colal. ʒij.; adde Pulv. Gum. Arab. ʒij.; Ferri Muriat. ʒjss.; Syrup. Alth. ʒvj. M. S.* Of this two tea-spoonfuls are given every hour, care being taken to shake the mixture each time."—*Lond. Med. and Phys. Journ. Nov. 1827.*

45. *Case of Dysentery cured by Ipecacuanha.* By R. BRIGHT, M. D.—"J. C. æt. 60, was admitted, under my care, into Guy's Hospital, January 25th, 1827, having for the last three or four weeks had frequent dejections containing blood and mucus, and passed with much pain. Habeat pulv. Ipecac. gr. j. sex-ta quaque hora.

26th. Five stools with griping and tenesmus; chiefly greenish mucus, mixed with blood. Repetatur Ipecac.

27th. Passed a better night than he has experienced for a month; disturbed but twice in the night, and experienced much less pain. Hab. Ipecac. gr. ij. s. q. h.

28th. But two stools since yesterday morning, with less blood. Rep. Ipecac.

30th. Only one or two stools in twenty-four hours; no griping or tenesmus.

Feb. 4th. Going on well. In a few days after, without any change of medicine, dismissed cured."—*Bright's Reports.*

[We employed the ipecacuanha in dysentery very extensively, when physician to the Philadelphia and Southern dispensaries, and were much pleased with its effects. We prescribed it, usually, suspended in mucilage of gum arabic, and with a few drops of laudanum. It is particularly useful in chronic cases, but is also serviceable in very mild acute cases, or where the acute inflammation has been subdued by the usual means. With the aid of absolute

diet, and absolute rest, two most important therapeutic agents in this disease, many cases may be cured, which, under the purgative treatment would terminate fatally. We have also derived benefit from the flannel roller, as recommended by Dewar.

I. H.]

46. *On Hydrops ventriculorum cerebri acutus*. By Dr. T. H. KOPF, of Hannau, Germany. Communicated for this Journal by Dr. T. LEO-WOLF.—This disease derives its name from the very singular results which proceed from it, namely, the formation of water in the ventricles of the brain; and even should the evil not increase to that extent, but merely that state of the disease which is necessary for the formation of the water occur, it nevertheless retains the same appellation.

The commencement of this disease is rarely cognizable, often escapes our observation, or is supposed to be caused by dentition, worms, or merely by a scrofulous state of the bowels, or else by an intermitting fever. Even should the physician pay attention to that disease, it is sometimes impossible to declare with perfect certainty that the existing symptoms are those of incipient hydrops ventriculorum cerebri acutus, because its premonitory symptoms are in many instances the same as those of various other diseases. In the early stage of this disease, the mode of cure can only be based upon a probability, and a satisfactory prognosis is to be formed from the further course of the disease. If the physician observes its real character only when coma and convulsions have appeared, then all hope of saving the patient is, most generally, extinct. In general, the complete cure of the disease can be effected, solely, in the incipient stages of the complaint; but should the effused water be already exerting a strong pressure upon the brain, and the affection of the sensorium be prevailing, then all expectation of affording relief, is, in most instances, futile.

Among the symptoms of hydrencephalus, I find two characteristical classes, the one is manifested by the *abdomen*, the other by the *brain*. The one appears at first, this I term the *abdominal period*; and the other, from its most striking symptom, the *comatose period*.

I do not mean to assert that the affections of the abdomen, vomiting, constipation, (sometimes diarrhoea,) variation of the urine, collapse of the bowels, tormina, indigestion, irregularity of the appetite, &c. *always* proceed merely secondarily from the reaction of an inflammatory state of the brain. I have attended patients, where those gastric symptoms preceded, without there existing at the same time any symptom of an affection of the brain, viz. head-ache, vertigo, drowsiness, intolerance of light, &c.; these only ensued after the former had lasted for some time. In many cases, however, the affections of the abdomen were immediately or very soon followed by head-ache, shunning the light, drowsiness, &c. But the affections of the abdomen are, in the incipient and lasting state of the disease ever the principal and most prominent symptoms, and in their duration, force, and extent, they are not proportionate to the primary affection of the head. The affections of the abdomen will never fail to be constantly present in the first stage of the disease, and they will not always be merely *sympathetic*, as if they proceeded consensually from the morbid state of the brain; still they will most certainly much more frequently, than has been believed, maintain an idiopathic character. Nevertheless it is peculiar to these affections of the abdomen, that they maintain a connexion with the affection of the brain, but even suppose that the latter in many instances is the cause of the former, still frequently a peculiar morbid state of the abdomen may be succeeded by that affection of the head; however, this subject will require a further and very minute investigation.

A constant symptom in the first stage of hydrencephalus is *vomiting*, and it is attended with this peculiar characteristic; it comes on unexpectedly and suddenly, without being preceded by excessive nausea; the tongue is generally but little furred and the vomiting is more frequent when the patient is supported in a sitting position, than in a lying posture. An *irregular stool*—ge-



nerally costiveness, and rarely diarrhoea—are likewise its attendants. If a child vomits often, at long intervals, if it be costive or its evacuations otherwise irregular, if the abdomen be collapsed and painful to the touch, if those remedies which are commonly employed to remove these affections, viz. Pot. Riverii, extr. colombo, rheum, magnesia, &c. are accompanied with no beneficial result, after being used for a sufficient time; if the urine be dark and *slimy*; if head-ache be observed—in infants by their motions and from their cries; in elder children by their lamentations—if the whole state of the disease maintain a kind of stability and obstinacy; then I most particularly advise an attention to the other symptoms by which the beginning of the hydrops ventriculorum cerebri acutus is accompanied.

I have rarely had an opportunity of witnessing in my patients that *itching* which Formey has described. But the confined and collapsed abdomen, without the evacuations of the intestines being increased, (of which *Goelii* gives notice,) as the symptom of the inflammatory state of the disease, requires, as such, all our attention. I have found, however, that affection more particularly in cases where the effusion of water has already taken place.

If the second stage of the disease be arrived, drowsiness and the other symptoms, which denote pressure upon the basis of the brain, then the diagnosis is very easy, but the cure becomes the more difficult, and at this period is generally hopeless.

In cases of very young children, who are not yet able to talk, in determining the *beginning* of hydropcephalus, we ought principally to rely upon the abdominal symptoms, vomiting, obstruction, &c. for the very important symptom of head-ache, is in these cases extremely difficult to ascertain. The other immediate symptoms of the affection of the brain among patients of a tender age, are in the first period equally indistinct, ambiguous, and uncertain, as well as the increased sensibility of the eyes when exposed to the light, the redness of their conjunctiva, their sleeping with half-opened eyes, the fixing of the position of the head, the putting of the hand to the head, the heat in the forehead, the altered feature, the itching in the nose, &c.

Sometimes in the beginning of hydropcephalic affections, even if they are not recognized as being of that character, the cure may be effected, if *calomel* and bleeding be had recourse to, as in various instances of painful dentition.

Sometimes the duration of drowsiness extends from fourteen to eighteen days. I have at least observed in several children, that it lasted throughout this lapse of time. Drowsiness and numerous spasmodic affections were alternately giving way to more lucid intervals; during which periods the patients did not seem to be in imminent danger, and while reclining, they swallow whatever is placed in their mouth. They sometimes suddenly return to a state of consciousness, awake from their stupor and converse, but as suddenly relapse into their former condition. This miserable and uncertain state of such patients is described by their friends as one, which places them between life and death.

I remember a case, where, during the period of coma, the left eyeball was very prominent, and the whole eye oedematous.

Often I observed during the spasms an imperfect hemiplegia; in some patients, on the left; in others, on the right side. The arm and leg could then be moved but little, and therefore the patient used the opposite members, whenever he wished to change his posture. The nature of his motions, and even the movements of his features, demonstrated already this partial state of paralysis. The convulsions agitated the lame side in a very slight degree, or not at all.

During the state of coma, I remarked in some hydropcephalic patients a kind of rhythmic striking of one of the arms; the patient raised it upwards, thrust it into his hair, or brought it to his nose, and then laid it down; after a certain time this motion was recommenced, and indeed, I have attended children, who have pursued it for several successive days.

One of the most characteristical phenomena in the *hydrops ventriculorum cerebri acutus* is the seeming likelihood of recovery that appears generally a short time previous to death.

This disease is not altogether independent of the state of the atmosphere, for it displayed itself so generally at appointed seasons, that the cause must necessarily have been attributed to the particular state of the air, and by no means whatever to casualties. Especially in the spring of the year, 1818, I had an opportunity of acquiring that experience in the case of many children. Exactly at the same time adults were more than usually affected with *epilepsy*, and those adults who had never before experienced it, suffered in common with such as had previously had it; however their disease, particularly that of the former, was not very obstinate, and the cure was radical. At the same time, vertigo, congestion of the brain, and apoplectic affections were prevailing. The weather was dry, and the wind generally from the east and north-east.

If the abdominal period lasts a long time, without being for some weeks succeeded by violent affection of the head, I should conclude, that the secretion of the water will rather be preceded by a mere congestion, than by a real inflammation of the brain.

Certain conditions of the abdomen have this peculiar character, that they excite congestions or inflammation of the brain, and the formation of water in the ventricles, by a sympathetic influence upon the head. To these may appertain such cases of the disease, as began merely with gastric symptoms, unaccompanied by any symptom of an affection of the brain, this latter subsequently appearing. Often in the dissection of those who died *hydrencephalic*, there were found disorganizations in the abdomen, swelling of the glands in the mesentery, inflammation of the liver, of the intestines, &c.

It is very easy to observe, that an hereditary disposition for that disease, sometimes prevails. One family of my acquaintance lost three of its members by the *hydrops ventriculorum cerebri acutus*; in another, I saw three individuals labouring under this disease, in its more or less advanced state, and I have often seen brothers and sisters suffering at the same time from it.

By one of the phenomena which this disease produces, we are reminded of similar observations, made in relation to croup; namely, that dissection at times does not present to our view that state of the brain, whereby the former condition of the patient may be satisfactorily proved, and we only find a small quantity of water in the ventricles, whereas we should have expected, according to the degree of disease, a much larger quantity of it. I particularly experienced this in the case of a child of two years, who was suffering very acutely from this disease, and whilst it was also suffering from cutting the two hind teeth. The engorgement of the vessels of the brain, was in that case very great, and blood instead of water seems in such instances to be effused into the ventricles of the brain, producing pressure upon the brain, and similar symptoms.

The physician is much more successful in the treatment of croup, than in *hydrops ventriculorum cerebri acutus*. The former, even in its incipient state, is attended with many frightful symptoms, but if the physician be called in at an early period, he is generally able to control the violence of the disease in a short time. Whereas people most commonly misunderstand the approaching danger of *hydrencephalus*, and should the physician have the good fortune to remove the complaint, still his merit, as displayed in the cure, is at times not sufficiently acknowledged, because the patient was not believed to be very dangerously ill. If the disease has arrived at that stage, wherein its imminent danger becomes manifested even to the unexperienced, as when attended with convulsions, &c. then, in most instances, a cure may be despaired of. Finally, the uncertainty in the diagnosis of this disease in its commencement, in many cases, prevents the physician from adopting measures sufficiently powerful to prevent the farther progress of this disease.

Even should the disease be not very far advanced, its cure is nevertheless very difficult, but if the water is already exerting a strong pressure upon the



brain, it is incurable. The following remedies have been found most efficacious.

*Remedies for internal use.*—Hydrargyrum in not too small a dose, and administered for a considerable time; particularly calomel, on account of its effect in producing a frequent stool, but in some instances it is better to use the more penetrating hydrargyrum oxydulatum nigrum, (mercur. solub. Hahnemanni.) Digitalis purpurea produces an alleviation of the disease if the secretion of urine be increased by it; but the patients can seldom bear it, because it excites nausea and uneasiness, and augments the vomiting.\* In some instances rad. scillæ mixed with mercury, were accompanied with a happy effect. In addition to mercury, I have also remarked the utility of the kali, (carbonicum,) saturated with vinegar, (potio riverii aceto vini parata, seu liquor kali acetici extemporaneus,) together with aq. patrosel. or aq. flor. til. in like portions; the vomiting being diminished, the gastric affections in general mitigated, and the secretion of the urine, which is so necessary in this disease, being increased. Flores zinci with magnesia, acted successfully in several instances, though they were inferior to the before-mentioned remedies.

More irritating remedies were sometimes accompanied by a very happy result, but only after the free use of mercury, bleeding, &c. Flores arnicæ and moschus, were found to merit the preference during periods of weakness of the pulse, dimness of sight, constant paleness of the countenance, and exhaustion of the patient.

*Remedies for external use.*—The principal is the application of leeches in a sufficient quantity around the head, and these sometimes repeatedly applied, but if the patients are somewhat advanced in years, a venesection. Cold fomentations to the head, which part in the very commencement of the treatment should be shaved, for the purpose of employing the external remedies with greater effect. These are composed of nitrum, sal. amon. vinegar and water, but the best application is ice in a bladder. Embrocations with ungt. Neapolit. (ungt. hydrarg. ciner.) to the neck or head, or in the beginning of the complaint, with ungt. e tart. stibiat. in order to produce pustules on the head. Vesicatories to the neck, and kept open. The use of clysters with vinegar, assaætida, &c. Tepid foot baths with mustard, sinapismata to the legs, &c.

47. *On Croup.*—M. EMANUARD, physician of Laigle, in which place croup is a very frequent disease, has lately published a practical treatise on that complaint. The following is a summary of his opinions, which he gives in the form of general propositions. 1st. The term *croup* ought to be restricted to angina, in the fatal issue of which there is formed on the mucous membrane of the larynx, and often even on that of the bronchia, a peculiar membrane. 2d. It is probable that this disease has always existed, but that the frequency of its development is subordinate to the physical education of children, submitted to the causes which produce it. 3d. It was not until the middle of the sixteenth century that a description of croup was given by Baillou, and more accurately two centuries afterwards by Ghisi and Home. 4th. It is of most frequent occurrence in northern countries. 5th. It comes on more frequently at night than in the day. It often attacks without any premonition. 6th. The cough is never wanting—it is pathonomic; the respiration is also peculiar. These two signs are sufficient to distinguish the disease, they always appear simultaneously. 7th. The interior of the throat does not present any peculiar appearance; deglutition is easy. 8th. The rapidity of the progress of croup is very variable. 9th. The affection is essentially inflammatory; its division into species is arbitrary and useless. Little importance ought to be given to the division into periods. 10th. The duration of croup always depends upon the promptitude with which assistance is afforded. 11th. It almost always termi-

\* I have not yet employed the acidum salis oxygenatum in hydreencephalus; but upon observing its effects in other diseases, particularly in scarlet fever, we may likewise in this disease expect a successful result from the use of it.

nates in death if it is misunderstood. It is always curable if it is attacked at its commencement. 12. Patients afflicted with this disease are subject to relapses; these are often the consequences of the treatment employed. 14. The croup and the asthma of Millar are two distinct diseases, and require different treatment. 15th. Croup is a disease of infancy, but no age is exempt from it. 16th. Free local depletion, to the extent of producing paleness employed at the commencement of the disease is a true specific in croup. 17th. When the use of revulsives joined to this means is insufficient, and the disease arrives at its second stage, death in the greater number of cases is inevitable, temporizing is fatal, it is necessary to perform tracheotomy as quickly as possible. 18th. The performance of this operation is exempt from all danger.—*Annales de la Médecine Physiologique*, September, 1827.

48. *Diabetes*.—Dr. G. C. MONTANI has cured this obstinate disease by a stimulant plan of treatment. The patient had laboured under the complaint for some time, and was extremely reduced in strength, and afflicted with an almost insatiable thirst, and passed about eighteen pounds of urine in six hours; the quantity of food and drink taken in that period being fourteen pounds. Dr. M. put her on the use of stimulants, consisting of a decoction of bark, with laudanum and Hoffman's elixir; this producing good effects was persevered in for five months, when a perfect cure was effected. The patient took during that time, thirteen pounds of decoction of bark, two ounces and a half of Hoffman's elixir, besides laudanum, wine, &c.—*Journal des Progrès*, Vol. V.

#### OPHTHALMOLOGY.

49. *Description of a Cataract Needle*. By ARTHUR JACOB, M. D.—This instrument consists of a common needle of the size "known in the shops, as number seven, being the forty-fourth part of an inch in diameter, about one-half the size of the finest Saunders's needle which is made. The point can be turned to the requisite curve by means of a pair of cutting forceps, or the ward of a small key; of course without heat, which would destroy the temper. It must not however be expected that all needles are so soft as to be bent thus cold: there may not be ten in an hundred of this temper, but when once turned they retain the curve without any danger of bending or breaking, and certainly possess a degree of strength and temper, never observed in needles separately forged and finished by the best cutlers. They should always be tried before use, by passing them repeatedly through thick calves-skin leather. After they have received the requisite curve, the point should be cut flat on each side, on a fine hone, and carefully examined with a magnifying glass, to ascertain that it is perfect. The extent to which the point should be curved, may be left to the choice of the surgeon, reminding him that the greater the curve the more effectual the needle will be when introduced, but the difficulty of introducing it through the cornea will also be greater. I therefore recommend those who use it for the first time to choose one slightly curved. After the point has been turned, the needle, held in the jaws of a pair of pliers or a vice, is to be run down into a cedar handle, without cement, leaving only *half an inch* of blade, which I have found to answer every purpose. If the blade be left longer it will yield and spring when opposed to a resistance. The handle should be about a fifth of an inch in diameter, and four inches long. I use the handles made for camel-hair pencils, and find that a metallic ferule, which increases the weight, is unnecessary and objectionable. A needle thus constructed, and preserved free from rust, will retain its point for a great length of time: I have used the same one a dozen times without sharpening.

"The surgeon, provided with such a needle, places himself in the usual position with respect to the patient, availing himself of whatever assistance he